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**CAN TRUDEAU
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First meeting, Monday **metroNEWS**



Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 10-12, 2017

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Muslim ban struck down — Trump vows to take fight to supreme court **metroNEWS**



Shopify defends Breitbart deal

ONLINE

**Far-right site
has a right to
platform, CEO
says on blog**



**Haley
Ritchie**
Metro | Ottawa

Shopify CEO Tobi Lütke has published an online essay pushing back against demands that the company stop doing business with right-wing news site Breitbart.

The essay, published on Medium, is titled "In Support of Free Speech" and expands on the original explanation Shopify provided.

Lütke mentions that he has received over 10,000 emails, tweets and messages asking the company to discontinue Breitbart's use of Shopify's platform. He writes that employees inside the company are receiving the same pressures. "Shopify is an

unlikely defender of Breitbart's right to sell products," admits Lütke. "I'm a liberally minded immigrant, leading a predominantly liberal workforce, hailing from predominantly liberal cities and countries."

Former Breitbart CEO Steve Bannon is now President Donald Trump's chief strategist. Merchandise on offer in the store includes T-shirts emblazoned with "Breitbart Border Patrol," "Border Wall Construction Co." and the slogan "Get in line" written on a silhouette of the U.S. map.

Lütke said he doesn't personally like Breitbart but he compares online shopping to democracy — casting votes via purchases.

The company does not make political donations, but COO Harley Finkelstein has signed a letter condemning the Trump administration's travel ban.

The creators of a petition on SumOfUs.org — which has reached 23,283 signatures — calls the right-wing news site "dangerous" and calls on Shopify to end their business relationship.

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BUREAUCRACY

Burst the 'Ottawa bubble,' says Raitt

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Conservative leadership candidate Lisa Raitt is pledging to move government staff out of the "Ottawa Bubble."

In a fundraising email to her supporters, she said she planned to move bureaucrats out of Ottawa. Raitt said technology could be used to decentralize the civil service, a move that she believes would improve decision-making.

"Ottawa sometimes make bad decisions because they are in a space where they are not necessarily feeling the pain of the economy," she said.

Spreading civil servants out would also help spread the wealth of good-paying jobs across the country, she said.

"We have small communities all across the country that need to have good jobs. People with these jobs, federal civil servant jobs, are good people who give to the United Way, they coach hockey, they coach basketball. We have lost that in so many parts of that country, so why not burst that bubble."

Raitt is among 14 candidates in the leadership race, which is scheduled to end on May 27.

Sewer-surveillance state

ANIMALS

Councillor calls on city to install cameras to monitor rats



Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

Sure, the census tells us how many people live in Ottawa — but what about the rats?

Some councillors want to

know. And one has a high-tech suggestion for finding out: video surveillance of sewers.

At Wednesday's council meeting, councillors Mathieu Fleury and Allan Hubley asked staff what it's doing to address the concerns Fleury has received about rats in parks and streets.

"Historically, the complaints we'd get about rats were usually on abandoned properties or where there are some landlords," Fleury said. "Most recently, that's changed."

The city has bylaws pro-



At this point I believe the city does not have a co-ordinated approach. Mathieu Fleury

tecting private property from pests like rats, Fleury said, but "at this point I believe the city does not have a co-ordinated approach" for public spaces.

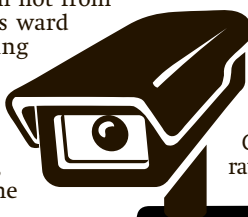
For Hubley's part, he said his concerns stem not from complaints in his ward but from speaking with workers on a sewer project in 2011. He said the workers noticed more rats, and guess that the

increase was related to reduced use of pesticides.

Hubley said he'd expressed his concerns about the rat population to city staff at that time. Now he wants the city to start tracking the population.

His suggestion: cameras in sewers.

Eric Perez, service manager with Go Pest Control, said rat calls have remained



GRAPHIC: ANDRES PLANA



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Psychic powers for truckers

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Pilot project to give drivers heads-up on traffic lights



Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

Remember the last time you had to slam on the brakes at a succession of frustratingly ill-timed red lights?

Or hit the gas lest that green light in the distance turn yellow — and disrupt your flow — before you got to the intersection?

It would have helped to be able to see a few seconds into the future, wouldn't it?

That's just what the city's traffic department will give a select few truckers as part of a connected-vehicle pilot project funded by the provincial and federal governments.

The project will test whether giving truckers a heads-up on upcoming traffic-light changes might help them save fuel, thereby reducing emissions, said Greg Kent, manager of traffic manage-



Next fall, some truckers in Ottawa will have advanced warning of traffic-light changes on Hunt Club Road. ADAM KVETON/FOR METRO

ment for the city.

"This is an opportunity to see how our system performs in what is coming up in the future of transportation," Kent said.

While technology such as this can act as a stepping-stone to-

wards autonomous vehicles, Kent said, the focus right now is on connecting traffic infrastructure to human drivers.

For the project, the city plans to give one or more transportation companies access to equip-

ment for five vehicles. The connected intersections will be along Hunt Club Road between Merivale Road and Uplands Drive.

The project has \$225,000 in funding — \$150,000 from Transport Canada, the rest from the

province.

Outfitted trucks are expected to be on the road in the fall, with Carleton University's civil engineering school providing an assessment of the data in the new year.

TRANSIT

Presto hit by IT glitch



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

OC Transpo is working to repair an IT problem that has left it unable to collect \$700 in fares every day.

When the commission updated routes in late December, it caused problems for the onboard computers on buses that interact with the Presto machines.

Andre Brisebois, a spokesperson for the agency, said there were small problems with the new routes that had not been covered in a software update.

"There were a small number of routes and stops in particular locations across the city that needed to be worked on," he said. "We're now testing the new database and aiming to push it wirelessly to all the computers on all the buses."

That problem confused Presto readers, which declined to take fares, because they believed in some cases that the bus was not yet in service.

"The Presto machine is working fine and it doesn't realize it's in service on a particular route," he said. "It's saying 'We are not on a bus route yet, so let's not collect a fare.'"

Brisebois said they hope to have the update out to buses soon and that should resolve the problem.

He said it's only affecting a small number of fares right now, but they do want to address it soon because it has cost the service about \$20,000 in missed fare revenue so far.

"We have an estimate it may affect about 0.2 per cent of all fares."

REAL ESTATE

Live the urban-farmer dream for \$1,100 a month

Had enough of the hustle and bustle of urban life?

Ever fancied quitting your nine-to-five and living on your own farm?

Well, you don't have to look very far. In fact, you don't even have to leave the city.

An organic farm at 230 Davidson's Side Road, between Kanata and Crystal Bay, came onto the market Wednesday.

The NCC-owned property has about 45 hectares of farmland and a red-brick farm-

house built in the 1920s. And the rent — \$1,100 a month — may send steam shooting out your ears. After all, how many of us pay that much for a four-bedroom, two-bath house?

Before you ask — no, you can't just rent the house and leave the farming to somebody else, said Bill Leonard, the NCC's director of real estate.

The NCC has 92 farms that it leases out, with one to three generally put on the market each year, said Leonard.

Given that rent is pegged to average farmland rates, even though property is located in the city, Leonard said, it represents a pretty unique opportunity.

But it's not available to just anybody.

With no bidding process, the NCC will choose from among prospective tenants based on an evaluation of business plans and long-term sustainability.

In general, he said, "(Our

tenants) come from four categories: you've got your really business-minded people who are seeing this as an income ... you see the young families who potentially come from an agricultural education ... and they are trying their hand at it the first time.

"You see some families (where) their parents or their grandparents had a farm, and either they don't have one or it wasn't turned over when they needed. And the fourth

one we are seeing is coming from some of the incubators like Just Food. They are learning how to farm there and then they are graduating to a full farm themselves."

Interested parties must demonstrate they're in it for the long haul — 25 years to be exact.

On the upside, there are nearly a million potential customers in the immediate vicinity, ready to eat your produce.

ADAM KVETON/FOR METRO

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Refugees brave cold to enter Canada

IMMIGRATION

Farmers welcome migrants from U.S. with meal

People have been walking across the United States border to claim refugee status for years, but a Winnipeg immigration lawyer says he's not used to

seeing them cross over in the bitter cold.

When they arrive, says Bashir Khan, they are often thirsty and hungry. For some, the first Canadian they meet is a farmer who welcomes them inside and offers a meal.

"They'll cook up 12 eggs and let a poor, hungry refugee claimant wolf it all down," says Khan. It's the migrant who asks to speak with border officials or police, he adds. "The refugee

11,000

Refugee claimants processed at designated ports last year, the Canada Border Services Agency says.

claimant is the one begging them to call, not the other way around."

Khan has 17 clients who have braved the weather in recent months to cross into Manitoba as an "irregular arrival." RCMP have said that last weekend 22 people walked from North Dakota into Emerson-Franklin. The majority were put up in a community hall and fed by volunteers.

Officials in Emerson say they've recently seen more border jumpers following planned new restrictions in the United

States on refugees.

The Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement requires people to apply for asylum in the first country they arrive. If they have already applied as a refugee in the U.S. before showing up at a border port in Canada, and have no blood relatives here, they are turned away. But if a person crosses into Canada somewhere else and then applies as a refugee, the case is heard in the Canadian system.

The Canada Border Services Agency says 11,000 refugee claimants were processed at designated ports last year. Figures released this week show more than 2,000 claimants entered "irregularly," with growing numbers in Manitoba, Quebec, British Columbia and Yukon. Khan says he has only ever had clients walk across the border into Manitoba in warmer months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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150 WAYS of looking at Canada

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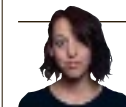
THIS IS THE QUAILS' GATE WINERY, IN THE MIDST OF THE OKANAGAN VALLEY. THIS AREA IS SO TRANQUIL AND BEAUTIFUL. I HAD MANY RELAXING VACATIONS THERE ENJOYING THE COMPANY OF WONDERFUL FRIENDS AND GOOD WINE! **ERIC HAMILTON**



SEND US YOUR POSTCARD Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. You can get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. You can email us at scene@metronews.ca or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag #150postcards.

REFUGEES

Woman pressures feds over family



Jen Taplin
For Metro | Halifax

Their first meeting should have been a joyous occasion at the airport. Instead it happened in a small one-bedroom apartment in Jordan.

Frustrated at delays and eager to meet the sponsored Syrian refugee family, Stephanie Gillis took matters into her own hands and visited them in Jordan last month.

Gillis and her colleagues at Southwest Properties contributed about \$25,000 to sponsor

a family. They were paired with a family in Dec. 2015 and were told they would arrive by February 2016. They're still waiting.

So in January Gillis packed her bags and headed to Israel, hoping to pop over to Jordan to see the family. A connection through a friend on Facebook helped her navigate the streets and track them down.

The dad, Mouad Almasalma, thought someone was coming to his door to tell him his application was rejected.

"I got out of the car and the look on his face, it was amazing, it was so cool," she said.

Court won't bring back Muslim ban

POLITICS

But it's not over; Appeal to Supreme Court is likely

A federal appeals court refused Thursday to reinstate President Donald Trump's ban on travellers from seven predominantly Muslim nations, unanimously rejecting the administration's claim of presidential authority and questioning its motives.

The panel of three judges from the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declined to block a lower-court ruling that suspended the ban and allowed previously barred travellers to enter the U.S.

The court battle is far from over. The lower court still must debate the merits of the ban, and an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court seems likely. That could put the decision in the hands of a divided court that has a vacancy. Trump's nominee, Neil Gorsuch, could not be confirmed in time to take part in any consideration of the ban.

Moments after the ruling was released, Trump tweeted, "SEE YOU IN COURT," adding that "THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!"

In response, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat who leads



See you in court, the security of our nation is at stake.

U.S. President Donald Trump

Mr. President, we just saw you in court, and we beat you.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee



one of the states that challenged the ban, said: "Mr. President, we just saw you in court, and we beat you."

The appeals panel said the government presented no evidence to explain the urgent need for the executive order to take effect immediately. The judges noted compelling public interests on both sides.

"On the one hand, the public has a powerful interest in national security and in the ability of an elected president to enact policies. And on the other, the public also has an interest in free flow of travel, in avoiding separation of families, and in freedom from discrimination."

The court rejected the administration's claim that it did not have the authority to review the president's executive order.

"There is no precedent to support this claimed unreviewability, which runs contrary to the

fundamental structure of our constitutional democracy," the court said.

While they did not rule on the merits of the states' argument that the travel ban was intended to target Muslims, the judges rejected the government's claim that the court should not consider statements by Trump or his advisers about wishing to enact such a ban. Considering those remarks, the judges said, falls within well-established legal precedent.

The Justice Department said that it was "reviewing the decision and considering its options." It was the first day for new Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who was sworn in at the White House Thursday.

The ban temporarily suspended the nation's refugee program and immigration from countries that have raised terrorism concerns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speculation about Palin as ambassador

Sarah Palin has been governor of Alaska, candidate for vice-president of the United States and the butt of countless jokes. Now is she about to become the American ambassador to Canada?

On Wednesday, White House press secretary Sean Spicer fuelled speculation that Palin is Ottawa-bound when he declined on Wednesday to comment on whether she is being considered as ambassador to Ottawa.

"With respect to the ambassador, we have no additional ambassador nominations or announcements to make on that front," Spicer told reporters when asked specifically about rumours that Palin was under consideration for the Canadian post. That was enough to cause Twitter to blow up.

"Sarah Palin as ambassador?" New Democrat MP Charlie Angus tweeted. "Well that would show how little Steve Bannon and his pal @realDonaldTrump think of Canada." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



U.S. President Donald Trump and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau will meet Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS & THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Trump and Trudeau to meet for first time

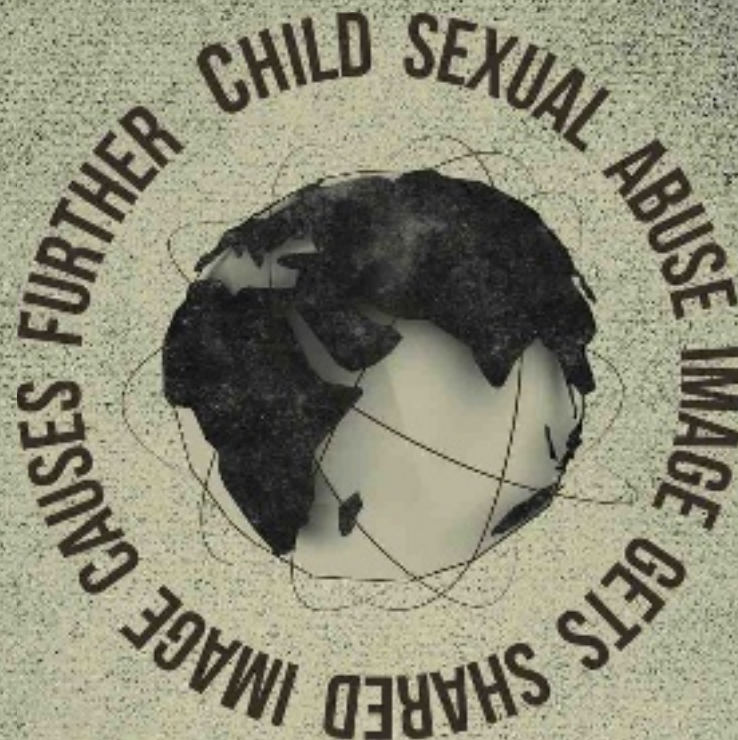
President Donald Trump will receive Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the White House on Monday — their first official meeting after weeks of back-and-forth about setting a tangible agenda beyond pleasantries and first-encounter photo ops.

Several people familiar with the planning said uncertainty about the date lingered for a reason: the Canadian side

wanted specific results, while the American administration is still busy getting its cabinet confirmed.

The scheduling drama was further fuelled by a spectacular public rift between Trump and the president of Mexico last month, scrubbing plans for a potential trilateral meeting of the continent's Three Amigos.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.



It's clear now — The already-rich Trumps just want to get richer.

I love shoes. Many times shopping at Hudson's Bay, I've picked up a pair that looked as if it could be something I'd want to wear, if it weren't for some hint of cheapness, the air of a knockoff, the feeling that the shoe was saying to me: "I am exactly your style," but I could sense a lie. Once you got closer, it wasn't quite as elegant. The fabric a tad tacky. The stitching imprecise. In general: less fabulous, more fake. And it was always Ivanka Trump (TM).

It's not until numerous people posted images of bland Ivanka Trump wrap dresses on Facebook this week — supporting Nordstrom's claim that it recently dropped her line of women's wear because it wasn't selling well — that I remembered about the shoes. I realized what a perfect metaphor they were for Ivanka herself: now that we've had a closer look, we can spot the fake.

The full extent to which she's misrepresented the women-friendly policies of her business, argued that her privileged childhood was in fact an obstacle she



Ivanka and Melania Trump speak during the presidential inaugural parade. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

overcame in order to become rich, and used her newfound political power to hawk her own products is detailed elsewhere.

But this week, we saw the curtain fall away completely. First, Trump slammed Nordstrom on Twitter. Then Kellyanne Conway, Trump's key advisor, shifted gears from presidential spokesperson to president's daughter's lifestyle brand endorser.

"Go buy Ivanka's stuff," she told the American people on Thursday. "I'm just going to give

a free commercial here: Go buy it today, everybody."

From the beginning, the idea that the Trump family would not try to profit directly from the presidency was as foolish as believing a dog would not try to roll in a pile of s—. But few thought we'd see it expressed so blatantly.

Conway's shopping-channel episode came only days after we learned that Melania Trump was in fact planning on making wads of cash from being first lady, a

role she appeared to want nothing to do with.

Court documents filed by her lawyers as part of a libel suit against the Daily Mail newspaper argue that she's lost out on a "unique, once in a lifetime opportunity" to "launch a broad-based commercial brand in multiple product categories, each of which could have garnered multi-million dollar business relationships for a multi-year term during which Plaintiff is one of the most photographed women in the world." In other words: She planned to use her time as first lady to get rich(er).

What's important about these two latest episodes of the Trump-presidency-complex is the shameless nature of these claims to self-enrichment. While liberals sit around worrying about whether they're being too paranoid about Trump, or not paranoid enough, his wife, daughter, political advisor and he himself have dropped pretences all together.

You can leave your ethics and morals to the birds and the bees, America. They want money.



UNITED STATES Cities hit by biggest snowstorm of the winter

The biggest storm to hit the Northeast U.S. this winter dropped a foot or more of snow along the New York-to-Boston corridor Thursday, turning roads treacherous, grounding flights and giving millions of people weather whiplash a day after temperatures soared into the 10s.

Scores of accidents were reported as drivers confronted blowing snow and slick highways. Schools closed in cities big and small, including New York City, Philadelphia and Boston, and government offices told non-essential workers to stay home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO Monarch butterfly numbers drop 27 per cent

The number of monarch butterflies wintering in Mexico dropped by 27 per cent this year, reversing last year's recovery from historically low numbers, according to a study by government and independent experts

released Thursday. The experts say the decline could be due to late winter storms last year that blew down more than 100 acres (40 hectares) of forests where migrating monarch butterflies spend the winter in central Mexico.

Millions of monarchs make the 5,500-kilometre migration from the United States and Canada each year, and they cluster tightly in the pine and fir forests west of Mexico City.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NETHERLANDS Prosecutors seek 11 years for alleged cyberbully also charged in Canada

Dutch prosecutors on Thursday sought the maximum possible sentence — nearly 11 years — for a man charged with cyberbullying dozens of young girls and gay men and who is also accused in Canada of sexually extorting Amanda Todd, a 15-year-old girl who later killed herself. Prosecutor Annet Kramer urged judges at a court in Amsterdam to sentence the suspect, identified only as Aydin C., to 10 years and eight months in prison, saying he subjected some of his victims to years of emotional abuse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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William Square, York Street, Friday Feb 3, 11:30 am - 2 pm
All you can eat stew for \$10 at the door!
All proceeds going to charity

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Clarence Street, Sunday Feb 12, 1 pm - 4 pm
Teams from ByWard Market restaurants, bars, and cafés compete for the title of server champions!

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From Friday, Feb 3rd right through to Monday, Feb 20th
Various establishments
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Healthcare Presentations

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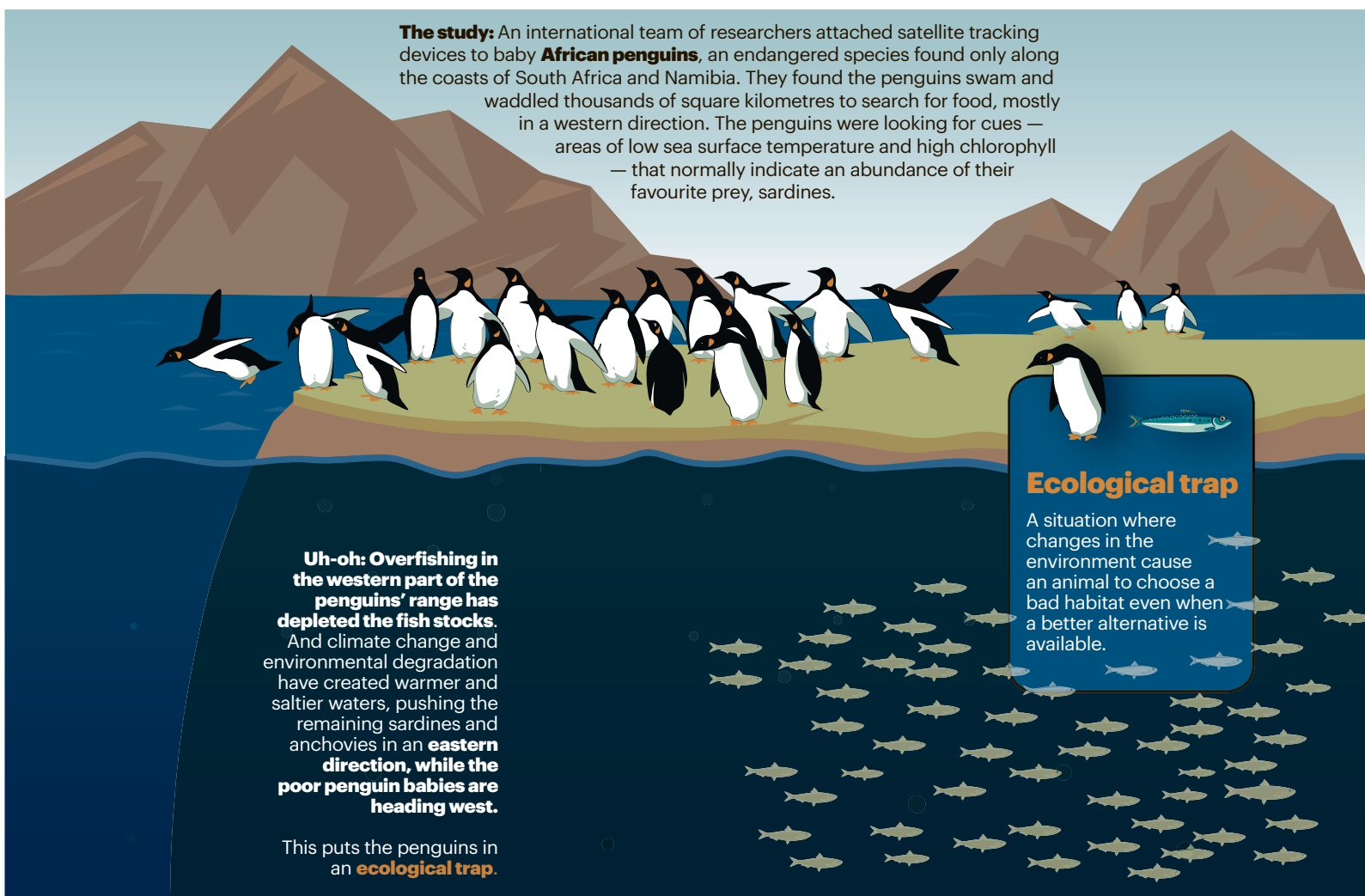
Your essential daily news

From the Department of Duh: Traffic deaths are declining because people are driving less, a new study says

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

DEATH MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

Baby African penguins are in serious trouble. They're toddling off into the sunset looking for food, but heading in the wrong direction. Humans have messed up their habitat, so their favourite snack, sardines, isn't where it's supposed to be. The breeding population in the hardest-hit areas is about half of what it should be. **They're stuck in a trap. Here's why.**



FINDINGS

Your week in science



SHIFTING FERTILITY

FACTS jobs with a lot of manual labour or anti-social hours such as night shifts may negatively affect women's fertility, a new study says. Women doing these types of work tend to have fewer eggs and fewer mature eggs.

BATTERY UP Imagine: A battery that lasts ten years, storing solar energy in your basement and discharging it to heat your home. And if it bursts? No prob, the solution inside is water-based. Harvard scientists unveiled just such a prototype this week.

SOUND SMART



DEFINITION

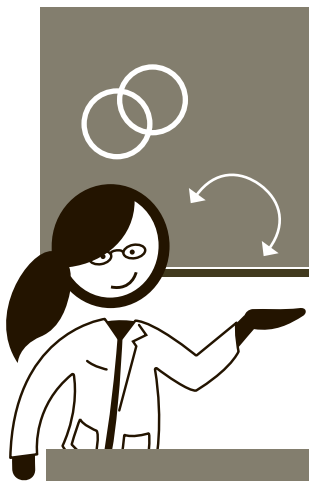
Formication is the feeling of ants crawling all over your body. Most often, it's the result of a common **tactile hallucination** (the ants aren't real, the problem is psychological).

USE IT IN A SENTENCE

Mercedes has been scratching all week and is slathering herself in expensive homeopathic cream. The **formication** she's feeling is real, but the problem is in her head.

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

A special message for Research Christmas



Merry Research Christmas! The first 2016 census numbers are out! This is bigger than regular Christmas. Experts have been pining for comprehensive data about the Canadian population since the mandatory long-form census was scrapped in 2010. God bless eggheads everywhere!

I know there's a feeling in the air right now that you can't rely on stats or polls, only your own two eyes. But you can rely on Statscan. It's independent. The data were collected with accepted, transparent methods and re-

viewed by qualified wonks. If there's a problem, it will be corrected. The same can be said for stats in reputable scientific journals. But it can't be said for much of what passes for "statistics."

Nobody uses scientific methods to collect statistics about issues of no scientific interest. Here's an example stat: The average woman has 20 pairs of shoes in her closet. It *sounds* true. But who would fund a study on that? No one, I think. I found the number in a Daily Mail article, but it's originally from an online sur-

vey (not a peer-reviewed study) by a random British couponing website, VoucherCodesPro.co.uk.

Even some often-repeated statistics of supreme public interest are untraceable. Case in point: survivors of domestic violence leave their abusive partners an average of seven times before staying away for good.

The statistic is often attributed to the National Domestic Violence Hotline. But on their site, they link to a CNN article that quotes an expert saying it. No study, though. I found one

graduate students' paper that repeated the stat, citing a 2005 Body Shop press release. The press release didn't cite a source.

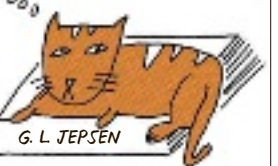
Questioning the stat isn't doubting that domestic violence is a devastating problem. Maybe the number is even higher. (If you know the real number, get in touch!). Meanwhile, my Research New Year's resolution is not to repeat, cite, share or rely on stats from dubious sources.

Science Question?

genna.buck@metronews.ca

PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

HABITS OF THOUGHT IN THE TRADITION OF SCIENCE ARE NOT READILY CHANGED.



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Keanu cashing in on charisma

IN FOCUS

Unpredictable Reeves returns as John Wick to confound again

Richard Crouse

For Metro Canada



This weekend one of the most multipurpose and enduring movie stars of the past thirty years returns to the screen. Kevin Spacey? No. Daniel Day-Lewis? Na'ah. Gary Oldman? Nyet. It's Keanu Reeves.

Wait! Isn't he the guy critics love to hate? That Reelviews said was, "an actor of exceptionally limited scope" just as the Daily Mail called his performance in Constantine an "impersonation of a sleep-walking plank"?

Yes, one in the same. He's The Matrix's Neo, the Ted of Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure and Point Break's Johnny Utah.

This weekend he's the title character in John Wick: Chapter 2, a down-and-dirty noir and follow up to the original 2014 hit.

The actor's latest incarnation represents another reinvention in a career spent keeping audiences guessing. He's gone on existential journeys, wooed Diane Keaton and played a peaceful extraterrestrial ambassador but Wicks is something else again.

The Wick movies are set in an alternative world of assassins where hit men and women are paid in special coins, stay in exclusive hotels — with killer views no doubt — and speak in a strangely formal way.

They see themselves as professionals with a civilized code of conduct... except that there is nothing civilized about the work they do. In the first film Wick was an assassin so tough he didn't bother to take off his gore-soaked shirt when beginning his bloody quest for vengeance.

John Wick, the movies and the character are blunt, über macho instruments, brought to life by Reeves in a performance that cripples the argument Today.com made that he is simply a "reciter of dialogue." First of all there is very little dialogue.

The opening fifteen minutes of the first film is essentially a silent movie kept interesting by Reeves's action hero charisma. Unlike Meryl Streep he can't do accents and he doesn't have the range of some of his former co-stars like Oldman but what he does have is presence.

At his best Keanu understands how to be on screen. Author Bret Easton Ellis said that Reeves "is always hypnotic to watch," and

what is a movie star if not someone you can't take your eyes off?

The Wick movies cap a busy and unpredictable time for the actor. After Speed and The Matrix he could have stuck to action films and made a career running jumping and kicking people. Instead he diversified, jumping from romances like Sweet November to crime dramas like The Watcher to The Replacements, a sports comedy.

From studio movies to indies he is unpredictable in his choices, defying expectations. Take his erotic horror thriller Knock Knock for instance. He plays a man held captive in his own home by three female home invaders. It's not a remarkable movie — I called it "deeply unpleasant" in my review — but what makes it interesting is Keanu's character's complete inability to protect himself. Most A-listers wouldn't allow themselves to be portrayed as such easy prey but Keanu relishes the chance to upend our view of him.

For sure Reeves has made some bad movies and even been bad in some movies but that sometimes happens when actors don't play by the rules.



Keanu Reeves returns as the title character in John Wick: Chapter 2. GETTY IMAGES



MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Fifty Shades Darker ★
The Lego Batman Movie ★★
John Wick: Chapter 2 ★★
Paterson ★★

HOW RATING WORKS

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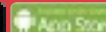


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Michael Cera teams up with former Arrested Development co-star Will Arnett in The Lego Batman Movie; a fresh take on the DC franchise. HANDOUT

Cera on voicing a comedic sidekick

INTERVIEW

Canadian actor lends his vocals to a more earnest Robin

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



You can take the boy out of Canada but you can't take Canada out of the boy. When I meet with Brampton, Ont.-born Michael Cera to chat about his new project, The Lego Batman Movie, he's having lunch, eating a Waldorf salad.

The 28-year-old began his career in Canada with a Tim Hortons summer camp commercial before decamping to the United States, finding fame with Arrested Development and a string of successful movies like Superbad and Juno, but has retained his disarming Canadian politeness.

I walk in, he jumps up, "Do you want anything? Cheese? A coffee? How are you doing?"

Declining the snacks and coffee I ask him about the two-year process of recording vocal tracks to play half of the Dynamic Duo, Batman's ward Dick Grayson, a.k.a. Robin.

"You are only focussed on your voice," he says on the difference between live action and animation. "That gives you a

certain amount of freedom to experiment in ways that you wouldn't normally. And there's nobody around. All self-consciousness that exists on a set where there is all this infrastructure put in place to set the camera up and point it at you and then you have to deliver. All that pressure is not there when you're in the studio. They just press record. They're not even recording on tape, it's digital. You just go and experiment and fail as many times as you want.

"As far as improvisation goes, it was very loose on this. The script is good and he jokes at work and everything ... you feel encouraged and take chances."

The Lego Batman Movie is part parody, part homage to the

ian suggests, "It's time to face your greatest fear, being part of a family again." Enter Dick Grayson.

"There's a great foundation there," Cera says about Batman's backstory. "I think the reason Batman keeps getting rehashed is because it is a great core story with this great character and the world around him. There is a lot to play off of in that."

It sounds heavy, but this isn't Christopher Nolan's long dark night of the superhero soul. "The best thing I can say about the tone is that it is a little like Chuck Jones," Cera says. "Joke. Joke. Joke. It has that kind of rhythm."

Cera's willingness to be irreverent with the Batman myth-



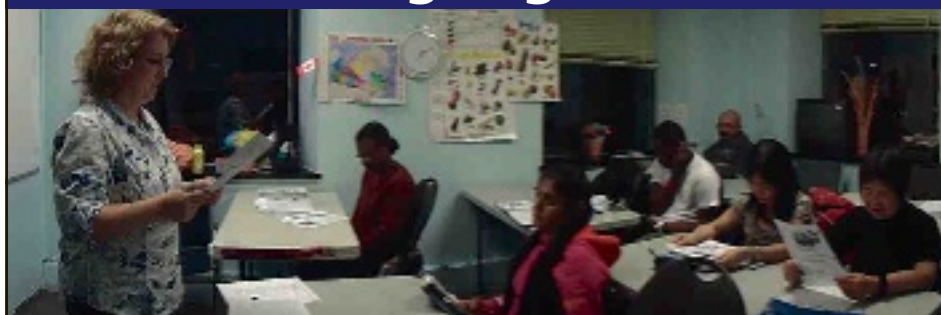
Do you want anything? Cheese? A coffee? How are you doing?

Michael Cera, proving Canadian politeness is a lasting trait

Batman origin story. When we meet Batman, played by Cera's former Arrested Development co-star Will Arnett, he may have outlived his usefulness as Gotham's main do-gooder. What does a Caped Crusader do when the city no longer needs a vigilante crime fighter? Alfred Pennyworth, the superhero's loyal butler and legal guard-

ology isn't a lapse of manners — he is Canadian after all — it's because, "I'm not an overly enthusiastic Batman fan. I didn't grow up with the comics. Comics just didn't land with me. I was really into cartoons and Nintendo. That was where my head was at. I loved watching the Batman movies but I don't live and breathe it for some reason."

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Give the gift of a shared experience

DAY FOR LOVE

Time together can make up for all that time spent apart

Tanya Enberg

When Valentine's Day traditions start feeling a little worn out, skip the card and flowers in exchange for something less conventional.

Doing so could be your best bet for success this Feb. 14.

According to Toronto psychotherapist Nicole McCance, what many people really want could surprise you.

"There's a lot of pressure, especially on men, to buy something, but most of my couples tell me that life is so busy and what they are really craving is an experience," says McCance.

"They want the gift of time."

To make the day special, while boosting connectedness and intimacy in your relationship, it helps to know how your partner best receives the message of love, says McCance referring to Dr. Gary Chapman's Five Love Languages, which identifies the fundamental ways in which people feel nurtured in relationships.

For some, a gift does the trick, while for others, receiving a new pair of earrings could be a total bust, depending on the love language they speak.

According to Chapman, some



Plan a day out doing something different together. You'll enjoy time one on one and have the memories go with it. ISTOCK

desire affirmation (being told I love you or given a compliment, for example), whereas others appreciate acts of service (such as cooking, taking care of the laundry, or washing the dishes); physical touch, or the aforementioned gift of quality time, the latter of which is characterized by focusing your attention on each other and not, say, the

television.

Thoughtful gestures, however small, can pack a really big punch.

"Life gets so crazy we begin to associate our partner with stress," explains McCance, adding relationships risk losing the lustre amid daily demands, such as "who's doing pick-up and drop-off (of the kids)."

To create an enriching occa-

sion tailor-made to your loved one, consider what they complain about, she suggests.

"For instance, if she says you're never home or you never touch me, do the opposite. Once the kids are in bed, put on some romantic music and give her a sensual massage. And that's free. Make a homemade greeting card letting her know how special she is. Be

curious, be complimentary. This is someone you share your life with. Remember how curious you used to be about them?"

Also, a shared experience promotes closeness and offers multiple rewards.

"You have the anticipation of it coming, then you enjoy the day, and then you have the memory of it," says McCance.

+ IDEAS

1. Travel: Whether single or paired up, day trips, overnight stays, or even exploring a neighbourhood in your own city can be a fun adventure that shakes up a daily routine.

2. Volunteer: Choose an organization dear to your heart and give it the gift of time.

3. Get outdoors: Go sledding or ice skating and then warm up with cups of hot cocoa.

4. Play host: Organize a potluck gathering for family and friends.

5. Be creative: Make a DIY gift, such as a scrapbook or mixed CD, or pen a handwritten love letter.

6. Make a grand gesture: Plan a nostalgic outing to the place you first met or had your first date.

7. Get clean: Hire a house cleaner to help scrub away the to-do list.

8. Perfect Pillow talk: After letting your sweetheart enjoy a nice long sleep in, surprise them with breakfast in bed.

9. Heat up the kitchen: Try cooking a new recipe or baking something sweet together.

10. Celebrate all love: Go for a walk with a good friend, or reach out to someone you know is struggling.

Gadgets that bring you closer together

Does your love life need a bit of a boost? While it might be the last thing you had in mind, the latest tech might just be what the (love) doctor ordered.

In fact, the right gadgets may just add some techcitement to your relationship, to help rekindle the flame between you and your partner.

Before you pooh-pooh the proposition, consider the following examples of how a techy gift might do the trick this Valentine's Day.

Headphone splitter

Consider it a romantic way to split up: the Belkin Headphone Splitter (\$26, Amazon.ca) lets two users listen to the

same songs at the same time.

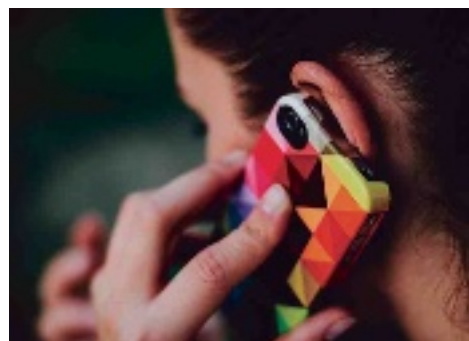
Simply plug this black or white splitter into your phone, tablet or laptop — perhaps while lying together on the couch or beach or while taking a stroll around the neighbourhood — and then two sets of headphones or ear-

buds can be inserted into the twin 3.5mm headphone jacks.

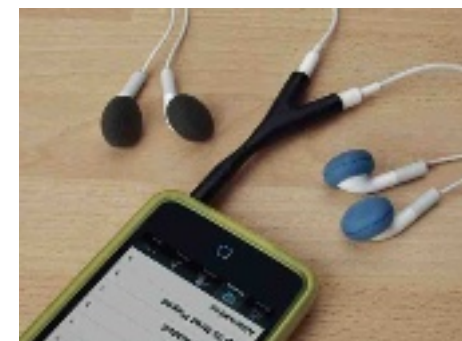
Heated foot spa

It's the next best thing to a visit at the spa — and you don't have to leave your home. As the name suggests, Homedic's Bubble Spa Pro Footbath with Heat Boost Power (\$99.99, Bed Bath & Beyond) gives your significant other a warm, massaging bath for her tired feet.

The clever toe-touch control means he can keep his hands in his robe pocket, while sitting back and enjoying being pampered. A built-in carry handle lets her easily transport it around the home before and after her few moments of heavenly, bubbly



GELASKINS SMARTPHONE CASES



BELKIN HEADPHONE SPLITTER

bliss. Heck, why not buy two and be spoiled at the same time, side by side, while sipping some vino?

Stellar camera

Give the gift of captured memories with a premium camera — but without the premium price.

The Sony Alpha A5000 mirrorless camera with E PZ 16-50mm zoom lens (\$529.99, Best Buy) delivers dSLR quality in a compact form factor,

plus this 20.1-megapixel camera features integrated Wi-Fi connectivity to instantly share your images with the world, via a nearby smartphone.

Decorative skins, cases

Decorate your better half's smartphone, tablet, e-reader or laptop with hundreds of different designs to personalize their gear. Gelaskins (from \$16, gelaskins.com) are high-quality skins that affix to your favourite digital devices, to

give them some unique flare.

You can also download free, matching wallpaper to display behind the icons. There are also fitted Gelaskins smartphone cases (from \$20, gelaskins.com). A percentage of each sale goes to the artist, plus you can upload your own design to create a custom, one-of-a-kind skin, such as a family photo, a couples' portrait, or while not romantic, a favourite sports team's logo.

MARC SALTZMAN



SONY ALPHA A5000 CAMERA



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Ecuador is top real estate investment for Canadians

Affordable oceanfront properties selling out fast

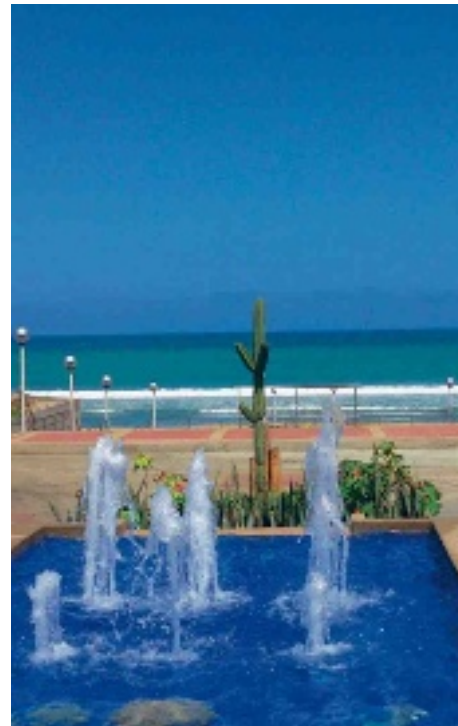
Pleasant year-round temperatures without the threat of hurricanes. A cost of living that's three times lower than Canada's. Affordable health care. It's no wonder Canadians are buying real estate in Ecuador.

Purchasing property here is also easy and affordable compared to other sun destinations. "Prices reflect what was available in Costa Rica 15 years ago but in a country where first-rate and modern infrastructure is already in place," says Gordon Poole, vice president of HolaEcuador, a Canadian company developing properties in the South American country. HolaEcuador is in its seventh year helping Canadians acquire property on Ecuador's Pacific Coast for financial investment and retirement. "Currently, we're working on a beautiful 130-acre oceanfront property located 60 kilometres south of Manta, the regional capital. Of the 1,700 lots in the

development, only about 400 are still available for purchase," says Poole.

Lots start at just \$23,113 (U.S.), and a two-bedroom, one-bathroom home starts at \$72,345 (U.S.). "The country is among the safest in Latin America, and the currency is the U.S. dollar, which is very reassuring for investors," Poole adds. "With HolaEcuador, buyers have the benefit of signing a Canadian contract with a Canadian company and they are assured that they will own their deed outright." The HolaEcuador team helps investors choose their lot, guides them through construction, and helps with extras like relocation and immigration in a country with accessible residency status.

The company's latest development currently has over 200 completed homes, with more construction underway. "A beautiful outdoor sports facility is now operational, businesses are beginning to set up shop and the parks are simply breathtaking," says Poole. "A few years from now, this little slice of heaven will be the envy of investors who didn't seize the opportunity."



Ecuador is ranked among the world's best real-estate investments. CONTRIBUTED

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HolaEcuador is hosting free info seminars across Canada in February. Representatives from the HolaEcuador team will discuss the development, the benefits of owning property in Ecuador and financial planning for a purchase. For more information and to register for a seminar, visit holaecuador.ca or call (613) 518-1973.

Orleans, Ont. — Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m. Quality Inn Orleans, 3363 St. Joseph Blvd.

New Westminster, B.C. — Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m., Inn at the Quay, 900 Quayside Dr.

Vancouver, B.C. — Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m., Best Western plus Chateau Granville, 1100 Granville St.

Calgary, Alta. — Saturday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m., Aloft Calgary University, 2359 Banff Trail NW

Edmonton, Alta. — Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m., Four Points Gateway, 10010 12 Ave. SW

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Oak stands pat on spat

NBA
Former Knick denies doing anything to force ejection

Charles Oakley maintains he did nothing wrong before he was surrounded by Madison Square Garden security officials. Something has happened, though, to turn him from popular player to persona non grata within his former franchise.

Oakley Thursday blamed his strained relationship with the New York Knicks and owner James Dolan for the altercation that led to his ejection and arrest from the Knicks' 119-115 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday.

Oakley said during an ESPN Radio interview that he had been in his seat for just a few minutes when he was surrounded by security, denying that they approached him after he shouted at Dolan.

"Now I'm four rows from this guy, so I'm going to walk in this place and just start hollering, 'James Dolan! James Dolan!' I mean, that's embarrassing, man.

I did not do none of that," Oakley said. "I didn't know the man was sitting in front of me at first until they walked over there."

Oakley, who is also a former Toronto Raptor, said he has been told that Dolan must be informed by security whenever he is in the arena, and that MSG staff follows him when he leaves his seat to go the bathroom.

But the Knicks said he was causing trouble Wednesday even before security reached his seat.

"There are dozens of security staff, employees and NYPD that witnessed Oakley's abusive be-

haviour," the team said in a statement. "It started when he entered the building and continued until he was arrested and left the building. Every single statement we have received is consistent in describing his actions. Everything he said since the incident is pure fiction."

Oakley was charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault and one count of criminal trespass. He is accused of striking one security guard in the face with a closed fist, and when two other people tried to intervene, both were pushed and received cuts.

He is due back in court April 11. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



I don't want to keep going to the Garden if all this is going to keep happening.
Charles Oakley



GOLF WICKED RAIN WREAKS HAVOC AT PEBBLE BEACH
Jordan Spieth hits a shot from the bunker on the 12th hole during the first round of the Pebble Beach Pro-Am on Thursday in Pebble Beach, Calif. The PGA Tour moved up tee times by an hour to try to beat the rain storms, but it wasn't enough. Already saturated, the greens on all three courses began holding enough water that play had to be suspended. Seung-Yul Noh, Joel Dahmen and Rick Lamb each shot a 4-under 68 at Spyglass Hill to share the lead, and more importantly, they were among the 75 players who finished. Spieth was at 3-under par with two holes to play on the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula. JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

2018 WINTER OLYMPICS Canada forecasted to win 29 medals

An analytics company predicts a big Winter Olympics for Norway and says Canada will finish fourth in total medals won next year in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

The U.S.-based sports and entertainment data company Gracenote has Norway topping its virtual medal table with a whopping 40 medals, including 15 gold, which would both be a Winter Games records.

The current highs are Canada's 14 gold and the 37 medals won by the United States in 2010 in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C.

Canada is projected to collect 29 medals — nine gold, nine silver and 11 bronze — behind Germany with 34 and the U.S. at 32 in Pyeongchang.

France is pegged to post its best performance, tying the U.S. for gold with 10 and Russia at

22 medals. The 2018 Winter Olympics open Feb. 9 and close 16 days later.

With a year to go, The Canadian Press forecasts 28 medals for the Canadian team (eight gold, 10 silver, 10 bronze).

Those who run Canadian sport are waiting until after world championships conclude to declare the country's goal for Pyeongchang.

Finishing first in total medals won was the target in both 2010 and 2014, when Canada won 26 medals for third and 25 for fourth, respectively.

Canada ranks third among countries in gold medals (31) and total medals (116) so far this winter sport World Cup season behind Germany (64, 163) and the United States (45, 126).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

240

The COC expects to send a team of approximately 240 athletes to Pyeongchang.

IN BRIEF

Canada caps perfect round robin in Fed Cup play

Canada defeated Paraguay 3-0 on Thursday to close out round-robin play at the Fed Cup Americas Zone Group I event with a 3-0 record.

Canada will face the winner of Pool B in Saturday's final with a berth in the World Group II playoffs in April on the line.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Riders coach denies working out Manziel

Saskatchewan Roughriders head coach Chris Jones has denied a report that the Saskatchewan Roughriders illegally worked out quarterback Johnny Manziel.

The former Heisman Trophy winner remains on the negotiation list of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, which gives them CFL exclusivity to him. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Wholesome Salmon Cakes



PHOTO: MAYA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



End your week on a light note with these simple, elegant salmon cakes.

Ready in 50 minutes
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients

- 2 large Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 leek, washed well, sliced in half and thinly sliced
- 2 5 oz tins salmon, drained
- 2 tbsp fresh dill, chopped fine
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise

Directions

1. Simmer potatoes until tender in boiling water. Drain and mash. It will make about 2 cups of mashed potatoes. Allow to cool slightly.

2. Gently combine salmon, potatoes, leeks and dill. Blend in mayonnaise and a pinch of salt and pepper.

3. Form into about 12 patties — about 2 1/2 inches across and maybe 1/2 inch thick and place on a plate. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour.

4. Heat some vegetable oil until hot but not smoking. Fry the cakes — don't over crowd the pan, you'll have a hard time flipping them — for about five minutes a side.

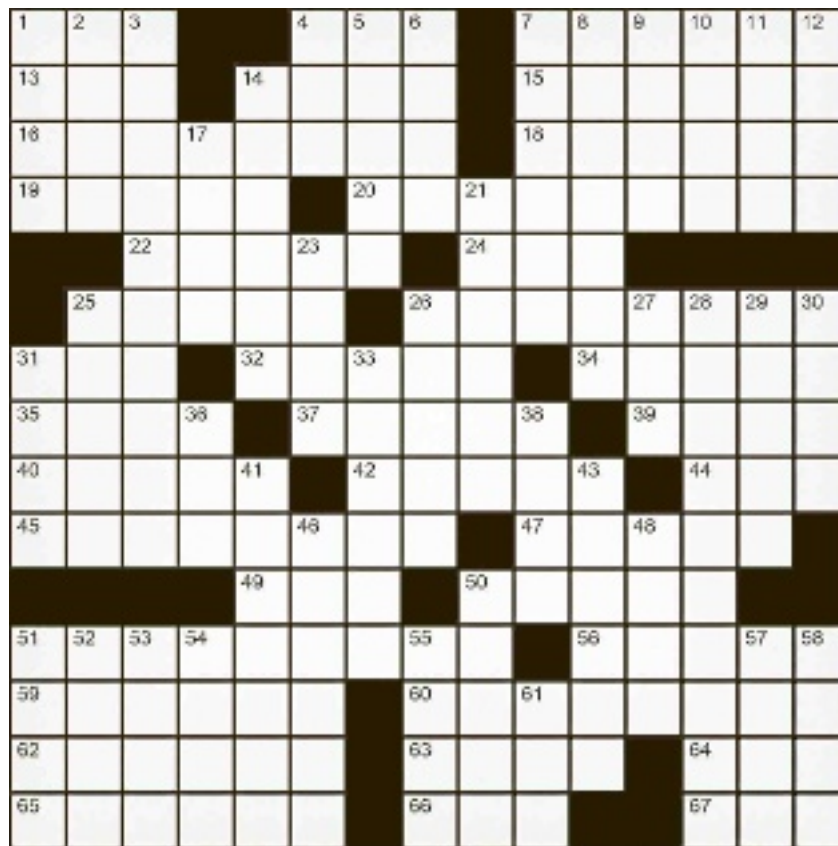
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Li'l banned pollutant
- In-the-lab letters in lunch
- Sacred songs
- Leftover of 'Liq' still in the tavern bottle?
- Bloke
- Down-___ (Worn out)
- Hockey defensive zone marker: 2 wds.
- One of the icons in Madonna's "Vogue"
- Manitoba town northeast of Winnipeg, ___ Bonnet
- Stylish bit of footwear: 2 wds.
- Poetically forever
- "13 ___ Madeline" (1947) starring James Cagney
- He defeated Goliath
- Country star Glen
- Film/dom's Gretchen
- Pacific island republic
- Smooth transition
- Jean Valjean portrayer Mr. Wilkinson
- Hidden hoard
- Britney Spears' sister, Jamie ___
- Sugar's pal in coffee
- Remove the hem's stitches
- 15th PM's monogram
- Salad dressing ingredient ...en francais
- Whitewater rides



- Tin Tin
- "Howdy!"
- Home team chant at an ACC hockey game!: 3 wds.
- Particular pastel
- Variantly gained knowledge
- Ontario folk festival where Joni Mitchell has famously played

- Encrypted: 2 wds.
- Street sort, shortly
- Vancouver-born actor Mr. Bellows
- Intelligence agency of Israel
- Compass dir.
- Tasty tuber type

DOWN

- Periodical or magazine, e.g.
- Pop
- Bryan Adams' longtime manager: 2 wds.
- F-J link
- NB's Grand ___ Island
- Frank

- Invented-in-Canada baby cereal
- Meryl's of multi-Oscars
- Herman Melville's captain
- Fallon's predecessor
- Beatles: "Love ___"
- Schedule

- opening
- Open the information loop: 2 wds.
- 1999 Matthew McConaughey movie
- Bluegrass singer Alison
- Nutritional suggested amts.
- "...see my red ___ must have it painted black." - The Rolling Stones
- Construction lifter
- Barbara ___ Geddes, "Dallas" actress
- Study of King Tut, Pyramids, Hieroglyphics, etc.
- Quebec City 'moons'
- Loaned
- Gladiator's 1205
- On-the-road reversals
- Goat's bleat
- In this spot
- Cynthia's "Sex and the City" character
- For whom King Edward abdicated in 1936
- Talented
- Acrobat's feat
- Mother Nature's wintertime 'coats'
- Flicker of light, briefly
- Vintner's prefix
- Resins in varnishes
- Ancient Greece's love god
- Pickup trucks, e.g.
- Minor
- Tranquil
- Food Network chef Ms. Drummond

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
The full moon today might create problems with kids or romantic partners. Be careful about going overboard or overreacting to things. Keep it cool.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today you feel pulled between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your job, career and public reputation. You can't please everyone.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Because of the full moon energy today, this is a mildly accident-prone day for your sign. Therefore, slow down and take it easy.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something to do with shared property, taxes or debt might come to a head today due to the full moon energy. Go slowly in everything you do.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today the only full moon all year in your sign is taking place. This can make relationships with partners and close friends too emotional and testy.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Difficulties at work or with co-workers might arise today because of the full moon. Just be calm, tolerant and easygoing with everyone.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Social events, romantic relationships, playful activities with children and sports events are all subject to the explosive full moon energy today. Don't get carried away.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do what you can to keep the peace at home, because today's full moon might stir up things within the family or where you live. Avoid arguments with authority figures, especially Mom.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a mildly accident-prone day for you because of the full moon. Take time to notice everything around you.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today's full moon can affect your finances in some way. Therefore, double-check everything you do. Don't give the farm away.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today the only full moon opposite your sign all year is taking place. This will put some stress on your relationships with partners and close friends, which means you have to be tolerant and patient.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Difficulties with co-workers might arise today because of the full moon. This is mild and temporary. Just go with the flow.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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